

WATER COMMITTEE
MAY 10, 2017
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Preau, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Chip Conner
Commissioner Steve Brown

ABSENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Patrick Stough, County Attorney
Michael Diaz, CH2M

GUESTS:

Rick Brownlow, CH 2M
Stephen Hogan, PTC WASA

OTHER STAFF:

Russell Ray, Water System

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman James Preau at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 26, 2017.

Chip Conner made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 26, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE.

Michael Diaz reported he is working on extending the pay application to Lakeshore. Once it is processed it should drop down their retainage to hopefully account for the outstanding issue we have right now with the seats at the plant. Four seats were replaced a couple of weeks ago. So far, they have been holding, and hopefully they can give them the green light to start replacing all seats beginning next Monday. He said they have had discussions with EPD and they seem to be comfortable with the temporary high rating we had a year ago; there did not seem to be an issue. Everybody seems to be on the same page. This high rate will be temporary and having two temporaries will help build the case to make it permanent.

Mr. Diaz went on to say they are waiting on the final report from ValMatic (the valve manufacturer); they are still gathering data on their end. There is a little bit of finger pointing, but Rotork and ICS are willing to move forward.

Mr. Pope mentioned we have had a few problems with the liquid lime pumps at the South Fayette plant. He said Mr. Diaz is working with us and the vendor to rectify

the problem. They are trying to decide if it is a controls issue or a power issue; they are trying several things to get this on line. So far we have not had any major issues. Mr. Diaz is helping us communicate with the lime company, Burnette Lime; they have been very responsive, too. He said we will get this resolved.

III. STARR'S MILL CLEAN UP.

Mr. Pope reported the first cleanup day will be tomorrow. The Water System will supply some tools and some of the equipment, and will operate that equipment such as saws and things of that nature. The chipper will be brought over from the Road Department; their crew will be there to assist with that. Volunteers are coming from Keller Williams.

Mr. Rapson commented Keller Williams have a Red Day and they are sending about fifteen folks to help us clean up. He told them that would be awesome; they can drag bushes and cut stuff up. Grazing Here is sending their truck down to feed everybody. That is a nice thing Keller Williams is doing as well. The arborist will be there. He said he thinks it will be a great project.

Mr. Pope pointed out the Environmental Management Team will be on site to work with us to make sure we don't violate any of our own ordinances. Commissioner Brown expressed concern about civilians getting around the massive chipper. Mr. Pope stated no one will be allowed around it except for our staff. He went on to say Saturday they will also be there from 8:00 to noon. Three or four hours on Saturday will be enough to finish tidying up what we disturb on Thursday. Mr. Rapson commented we will be organizing one day subsequently to start cleaning on the other side. Mr. Pope agreed we are only working on the mill side this week.

Mr. Pope reported a contractor will be coming in to remove the tall trees. They will remove them, grind the limbs, grind the stumps down and clean it up completely. Tomorrow we will only be dealing with the smaller underbrush. Mr. Rapson said it will be a lot of manual intensive, pulling stuff away. Commissioner Brown suggested getting pictures of the work in action, people picking up; maybe we can use that with DOT on the bridge request when the time comes. Mr. Pope said he has assigned people to take before and after photos; as well as during the cleanup.

Mr. Diaz reported Rochester was on site last week; he will verify with them today to make sure they have finished. Mr. Pope said there are some stakes out there; they had to verify some information before they finalize the staking either yesterday or today. Mr. Diaz said he will double check today to be sure everything is in place. Mr. Pope commented we can then talk about planting trees as suggested by Commissioner Brown. He said he thinks we need to go back to plant some stuff; planting Leland Cypress on the boundaries has been discussed.

Mr. Diaz stated the Committee discussed at the last meeting a potential field trip to the Gwinnett County Environmental Heritage Center. Mr. Steve Cannon, who is

the Executive Director has tried to move his schedule, but will not be available June 28. He is available the 29th, the Committee agreed to cancel the June 28th meeting and schedule a special called meeting on June 29th for the field trip. Mr. Diaz agreed to work out the details with Mr. Cannon. Once we have it set up, Mr. Rapson stated he would share it with the other Board members since they may have an interest in it. If we are going to move that direction, it would be nice for them to see what we are seeing and what is coming out of the Water Committee.

Mr. Pope commented that Mr. Cannon had a lot of simple things we could do with our current piece of property without disturbing anything. He is all about protecting the character and he agreed. He has some ideas about how to make that property more available to our citizens.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown stated Lake Horton is the next target. They are asking people to get signed up for May 20, 8:00 to 11:00. CH is providing lunch and Mr. J. R. Ramos will do the food preparation. He said he also shared information about the cleanup at Starr's Mill on the Water Guardians Facebook page.

V. ADJOURNMENT.

Chip Conner made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee May 10, 2017 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman James Preau adjourned the meeting at 8:10 A.M.

James Preau

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 24th day of May, 2017.

Lisa Speegle